

2017 -- H 6179

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

HOUSE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SINCERE CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF AMEDEO C. MEROLLA,
BRIGADIER GENERAL, RET.

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Vella-Wilkinson, Shanley, Solomon, and
Shekarchi

Date Introduced: May 02, 2017

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, It is with utmost sadness that we have learned of the passing of retired
2 Brigadier General Amedeo C. Merolla, beloved husband of Norma H. Merolla for sixty-four
3 years, devoted father of Katherine Merolla, Esq., and her husband, Dr. George Kay, Julie
4 Merolla, MSW, LICSW and her husband, Thomas Rolin, Major Sandra Merolla (USARNG, Ret.)
5 and her husband, Major Daniel Hogan (USAR, Ret.), and the Honorable Steve Merolla, Esq., and
6 his wife, Michelle Accetturo-Merolla. He was also the very proud "Papa" of Jeremy, Nicholas,
7 Matthew, Katie, Robert, Jennifer, Brianna, Madison, and Bella; and

8 WHEREAS, Known as "Armie" to his family and friends, he was born in the Federal Hill
9 neighborhood of Providence, a son of the late John and Olympia Merolla. He was a graduate of
10 Mount Pleasant High School, earned his Bachelor's degree from Brown University, attained his
11 Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School, and had attended the U.S. Army Command and General
12 Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College; and

13 WHEREAS, While at Brown University, Mr. Merolla enlisted in the Marine Corps
14 Reserve. He later graduated from the Marine Corps Infantry Platoon Leaders' Course at Quantico
15 and subsequently enlisted in the Rhode Island Army National Guard (RIARNG) where he was
16 awarded a direct commission as a First Lieutenant, Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps; and

17 WHEREAS, During his thirty-six year military career, General Merolla served in the
18 Military Police, JAG, Field Artillery, and Military Intelligence branches, including serving as
19 State Inspector General of the RIARNG and as State Staff Judge Advocate of the RIARNG. In

1 1984, he became the first Italian-American appointed by RIARNG as a General Officer when he
2 was confirmed as a Brigadier General, and in 1985, he was appointed to the post of Assistant
3 Adjutant General and Deputy Commanding General–Army of the RIARNG, where he served
4 until his retirement; and

5 WHEREAS, Never a man to remain idle, upon retirement from RIARNG, General
6 Merolla was appointed Commander of the Rhode Island State Defense Force, and later was
7 granted the honorary rank of Major General in the Rhode Island Militia. During his distinguished
8 military career, he was awarded myriad honors and decorations including the Legion of Merit,
9 Meritorious Service Medal, and the Rhode Island Cross for Valor; and

10 WHEREAS, In addition to his military career, Mr. Merolla was a member of the Rhode
11 Island and Massachusetts Bar Associations, and had been the senior managing partner of Merolla,
12 Accetturo & Lough. He had served in a panoply of capacities including as Judge Advocate
13 General and Assistant Providence City Solicitor, and legal counsel to the Rhode Island Secretary
14 of State, the Rhode Island Public Buildings Authority, the Director of the Rhode Island
15 Department of Administration, and Congressman James Langevin, and had served on myriad
16 professional committees and with numerous community organizations; and

17 WHEREAS, Through his service in the military and in the community, General Merolla
18 left a legacy of dedication and commitment to our nation and this state. He was a steadfast
19 gentleman, whose integrity and determination enriched the lives of all who knew him and was an
20 inspiration to us all; now, therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
22 Providence Plantations hereby expresses our deepest sympathies on the passing of Amedeo C.
23 Merolla; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
25 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Norma H. Merolla and Family.

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